

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 H-02 CPR-01

OIC-02 SY-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 /064 W

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R 171101Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1738

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0860

DEPT ALSO FOR NEA/ARP

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, QA, US

SUBJ: HIGH LEVEL ATTENDANCE AT 31ST UNGA;

SECVISIT 31ST UNGA -- QATAR

REF: STATE 180074

1. DURING AUG 15 CONVERSATION, QATARI FOREIGN MINISTER SHAYKH SUHAYM BIN HAMAD AL THANI INFORMED ME THAT, AS USUAL, HE EXPECTED TO HEAD GOQ DELEGATION TO 31ST GA. SUHAYM ASKED FOR BILATERAL WITH SECRETARY EITHER IN NEW YORK OR WASHINGTON, NOTING THAT HE HAD BEEN TRYING FOR PAST TWO YEARS TO SEE SECRETARY DURING HIS ANNUAL TRIP TO U.S., WITH DISAPPOINTING LACK OF SUCCESS. RE TIMING OF HIS STAY IN NEW YORK, SUHAYM SAID IT WOULD BE AFTER SEPT 25, BUT BECAUSE OF RAMADAN AND FOLLOWING ID HOLIDAYS HE COULD NOT BE MORE PRECISE AS YET. IN ADDITION, HE SAID AMIR, OF COURSE, WOULD HAVE FINAL SAY ON HIS TRAVEL SCHEDULE.

2. I TOLD SUHAYM THAT WE COULD MAKE NO COMMITMENT FOR BILATERAL WITH SECRETARY AND EMPHASIZED DIFFICULTIES OF ARRANGING THIS. HE REPLIED THAT HE KNEW HOW DIFFICULT IT WAS, SINCE HE HADN'T MADE IT YET. I POINTED OUT TO SUHAYM THAT SECRETARY MADE SPECIAL EFFORT AT EACH GA TO MEET HEADS OF ARAB DELEGATIONS AT DINNER WHICH HE HOSTED IN THEIR HONOR, AND THAT SUHAYM HAD NOT ATTENDED DINNER EITHER IN 1974 OR 1975. HE REPLIED THAT  
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THIS WAS NOT HIS FAULT SINCE AMIR'S TRAVEL INSTRUCTIONS HAD

PRECLUDED HIS ATTENDANCE. HE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT CONVERSATION AT DINNER NOT RPT NOT REAL SUBSTITUTE FOR PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS, AND ADDAR THAT IF DEFINITE BILATERAL COULD BE ARRANGED HE WAS SURE AMIR WOULD AGREE TO TIMING THAT WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO MEET WITH SECRETARY. I AGREED TO FORWARD HIS REQUEST TO DEPT FOR CONSIDERATION, REITERATING THAT NO COMMITMENT COULD BE MADE NOR COULD HE EXPECT TO HAVE ANY WORD ON THIS UNTIL AFTER OPENING OF GA.

3. COMMENT: I CANNOT PRETEND THAT SUBSTANCE OF US/QATARI RELATIONS OR SUBSTANCE AND INFLUENCE OF SUHYAM AS GOQ FOREIGN MINISTER WARRANTS BILATERAL WITH SECRETARY. ALTHOUGH GOQ AS AN OPEC, OIL RICH COUNTRY DOES HAVE POTENTIAL CLOUT IN ARAB WORLD, IT DOES NOT AND IS UNLIKELY TO USE THIS TO ANY EFFECT. HOWEVER, SUHAYM'S PERSISTENT AND REPEATED EXPRESSIONS OF DISAPPOINTMENT AT NOT BEING ABLE TO SEE SECRETARY ARE A SORE POINT WITH HIM AND AN EMBARRASSMENT FOR US, SO I HOPE SOMETHING CAN BE ARRANGED. I WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING SOME WORD ON PROSPECTS OF SUHAYM HAVING BILATERAL WITH SECRETARY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SINCE HE WILL PRESS HIS REQUEST WITH ME ON EVERY POSSIBLE OCCASION UNTIL HE DEPARTS FOR NEW YORK.

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**TAGS:** PFOR, QA, US, UNGA, (AL THANI, SUHAYM BIN HAMAD)  
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